

Red Rock CANYON

Keystone Visitor Guide

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NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Welcome to the New Visitor Center

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE NEWLY OPENED RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA VISITOR CENTER, ESPECIALLY THE NEW INTERPRETIVE DISPLAYS, EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATURE WALKS AND WILDFLOWER TALKS.

When the former visitor center opened in 1982, about 20,000 people visited Red Rock. Now more than a million people visit the area each year. To provide for public demand, the Secretary of the Interior approved funding under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to build a new visitor center, which provides enhanced visitor services to the increasing number of people who visit the National Conservation Area each year.

The new center enhances visitor services through four components:

construction of a new visitor center; redesign of the existing visitor center structure into an administrative building; construction of a new fee booth area and construction of related infrastructure and site work.

As you have probably already noticed, the unique design of the new visitor center encourages stewardship for the public land by providing an outdoor experience. The majority of the innovative interpretive exhibits are outside with four themed elements: earth, wind, fire and

water. In addition, the center boasts a 250-seat amphitheatre.

Both the visitor center and the administration building components of the project will undergo the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification process.

Construction of the visitor center began in spring 2008. The visitor arrival structure opened in October 2009 and the administration building was complete by the end of 2009.







License Plate

You've enjoyed your visit to Red Rock and now you may be looking for a take-home memory of the National Conservation Area. If you are a Nevada resident, you have an opportunity to be reminded of your adventure by purchasing a Red Rock Canyon license plate.

The process is easy: go to the nearest Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles with your registration, ID and your old license plates. The charge for the new plate is \$61 with a one-time processing fee of \$5. Your normal renewal period will remain the same and plate renewals will be \$30.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon receives \$25 in revenue for the first year per plate and \$20 for renewals for these stylish license plates. All proceeds from the license sales will be used to support programs and services at Red Rock Canyon.

Hours of Operation

April 1 through September 30, 2010

♦ Visitor Center 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

13-Mile Scenic Drive, Red Rock Overlook on State Route 159 and Red Spring

APPLL 1 - 20

APRIL 1 - 30 May 1 - September 30

6 a.m. to 8 p.m. 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.





Desert Safety Tips

TO SAFELY ENJOY RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, PLEASE RESPECT YOURSELVES AND OTHERS BY RECOGNIZING THE CHALLENGES THAT VISITING THE MOJAVE DESERT PRESENTS.

Water

Drink at least one gallon (four liters) per day if you are hiking, the day is hot or the trail is exposed to direct sunlight. Carry at least one gallon of extra water per person in your vehicle. Bottled water is available for purchase at the visitor center. This is the only location where drinking water is available in the national conservation area.

Heat

Temperatures in Red Rock Canyon can average more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit during the summer months. The best protection against heat is drinking plenty of water and limiting exposure to the sun during the hottest parts of the day. If you feel dizzy, nauseous or get a headache, immediately get out of the sun and drink plenty of water. Dampen your clothing to lower your body temperature.

Protective Gear

For hiking, select shoes that will provide a comfortable fit, ankle stability and protection against cactus spines. Wear clothes that provide protection against the sun (i.e. hats, long sleeves, long pants, etc.) and apply sunscreen.

Flash Floods

When hiking, avoid canyons during rainstorms and be prepared to move to higher ground. While driving, be alert for water running in the normally dry desert washes and across road dips. Do not walk or drive through flood water flowing across a road.

Lightning

Lightning storms frequently occur in the afternoon during the summer months. To prevent lightning from striking you, avoid high places and seek cover in buildings or in vehicles with the windows rolled up. If caught outdoors, crouch down on both feet with your arms wrapped around your knees and wait out the storm.

Desert Dwellers

Watch where you put your hands and feet. Rattlesnakes, scorpions or venomous spiders may be sheltered behind boulders or under rocks and shrubs. Do not touch, collect or try to kill these animals.

Flower Power

DESERT PLANTS ARE RESILIENT AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS FOR SURVIVING DESERT CONDITIONS ARE DIVERSE AND AMAZING. A KEY TO PLANT SURVIVAL IS THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE. THE REPRODUCTION OF MOST ANNUAL AND PERENNIAL SPECIES IS DEPENDENT ON THE POWER OF THE FLOWER!

The male parts of a flower are specialized to produce spores or pollen. Spores or pollen from the anther at the end of the stamen must find their way to the stigma. The female stigma is the surface on which spores or pollen must land (or be placed) during pollination. Here the spores germinate and travel down the style of the pistil where fertilization takes place.

Pollen transfers from stamen to stigma in three ways: self-pollination, animal pollination and wind pollination. The process of self-pollination occurs when the pollen from an anther fertilizes an egg on the same flower. Wind pollination is a primitive method and generally occurs among plants that live close together such as grasses and trees. Tremendous amounts of pollen are released to ensure that at least some wind borne spores make it to the correct stigma.

Spring flowers put on their annual show to attract animal pollinators from bees to hummingbirds. The colors and designs of flowers have developed over time to attract specific animals that fulfill their reproductive needs. Look into a Utah penstemon blossom and you will see patterns of color called "nectar guides." These guides are essentially



runways with landing lights that lead the pollinator right to the nectar. Some flowers are generalists and do not care which animal pollinates them, while others have reliable partnerships. The yucca moth pollinates the yucca flower while she lays her eggs. In turn for her good deed, the moth larva can feed on the developing seeds.

This spring, take a closer look at the attractive power of Red Rock Canyon's desert flowers. From April to June, you may see desert marigolds and globe mallow throughout the area. Firecracker penstemon, small leaf amsonia and scarlet gaura will dress up Pine Creek Canyon. Lost Creek and Willow Springs will show off dune primrose, chia, prickly pear cactus, larkspur, and Fremont phacelia. Spring and early summer are your best chances to experience the beauty of the Mojave Desert in bloom. So get out the camera, take a hike and watch the desert change before your very eyes through the power of flowers.



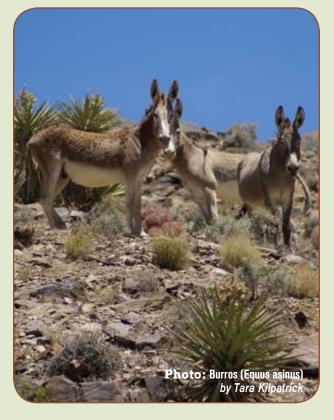
Wild Horses and Burros

FOR MANY VISITORS, A TRIP TO RED ROCK CANYON IS A CHANCE TO SEE WILD BURROS AND WILD HORSES.

Wild horses primarily live south of State Route 160. The majority of burros live north of State Route 160. They are most often seen between Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and the community of Blue Diamond.

Feeding encourages these animals to congregate on roadways where many have been killed and injured by vehicles. Each year people are injured by burros as they try to feed or pet these animals. Feeding burros also causes them to lose their natural fear of roads and cars. Every year both burros and humans die from burro and automobile collisions due to this adaptation.

Wild horses and burros are protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. People feeding, attempting to feed, riding, attempting to ride, handling, or otherwise harassing or disturbing wild horses or burros are subject to a citation.



TO OBSERVE THESE BEAUTIFUL WILD ANIMALS SAFELY:

- PICK A SAFE PLACE TO STOP AND PULL COMPLETELY OFF THE ROADWAY.
- OBSERVE THE WILD HORSES AND BURROS FROM A DISTANCE. THE SAFEST PLACE IS FROM YOUR CAR.
- DRIVE CAREFULLY AND BE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU SEE ANIMALS ON OR NEAR THE ROAD. THEY MAY STEP OUT IN FRONT OF YOUR CAR UNEXPECTEDLY.
- REFRAIN FROM THE TEMPTATION TO FEED OR WATER THESE HARDY DESERT CREATURES.
- IF YOU HAVE FOOD IN AN OPEN CONTAINER, SEAL IT IF A HORSE OR BURRO APPROACHES YOU.

Wildland Fire at Red Rock

Firefighters are bracing for an active wildland fire season this year in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area because above average rainfall this winter is expected to trigger growth of invasive weeds.

Fortunately, BLM firefighters and fire engines from Red Rock fire station are located several minutes away from the 13-Mile Scenic Drive.

Some plants and animals are adapted to fire and benefit from the changes it brings, but wildland fire is not helpful to all wildlife and plant communities. The Mojave Desert is one ecosystem that is not adapted to wildland fire. It takes an average of 40 years to recover the amount of vegetation that existed prior to a fire, it is unknown how many more decades it may take to recover species diversity such as the joshua tree, black brush and creosote communities; it may be hundreds of years.

Several wildland fires have burned in Red Rock Canyon over the past years, destroying fragile Mojave Desert habitat. Mojave Desert lands burned by wildland fire are more vulnerable to new wildland fires because they become invaded by weeds and other annual grasses. Native plants must compete with the invasive annual grasses for water, soil nutrients and sunlight. Invasive annual grasses regenerate more quickly than native vegetation, creating the potential for new wildland

fires and decreasing the ability of native vegetation to become dominate in the plant community.

Rehabilitation efforts including seeding and planting of native vegetation are ongoing. In addition, monitoring regrowth and weed treatments will continue.

Visitors to Red Rock
Canyon can help reduce
the spread of invasive
weeds by following a
few guidelines for recreation
within burned areas:

STAY ON THE DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS.

SEEDS OF INVASIVE GRASSES AND WEEDS CAN

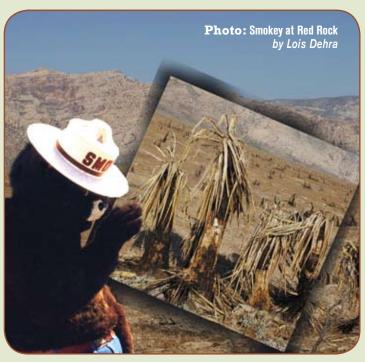
"CATCH A RIDE" IN YOUR SHOES, SOCKS AND CAR

TIRES. STAYING ON TRAILS ALLOWS THE BLM TO

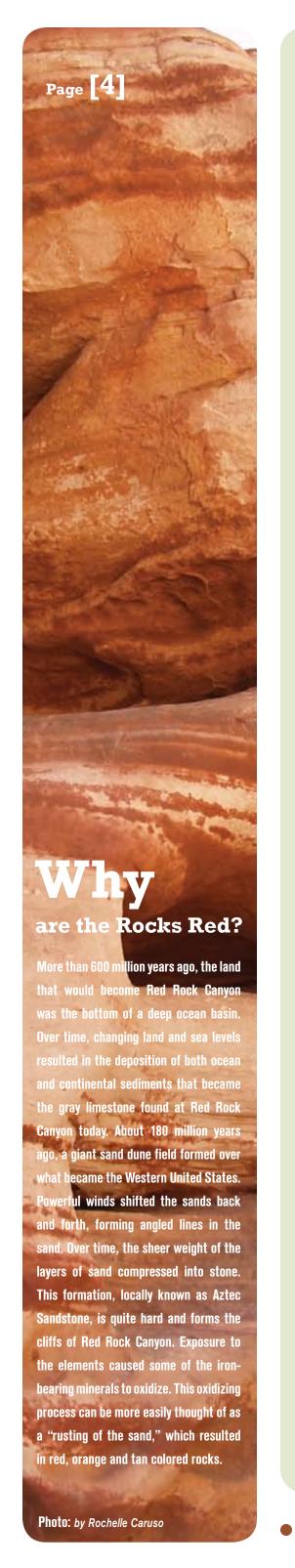
MONITOR INVASIVE GRASSES AND WEEDS AND

APPLY TREATMENT TO PROTECT THE NATIVE

VEGETATION.



STAY OUT OF BURNED AREAS. THE SOIL IS EXTREMELY FRAGILE AFTER A FIRE HAS OCCURRED. THE ROOTS OF THE VEGETATION HAVE LOST THEIR INTEGRITY AND HILLSIDES ARE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO EROSION. IF LEFT UNTOUCHED, THE SOIL WILL ERODE SLOWLY; HOWEVER IF THE SOIL CRUST IS BROKEN BY FOOT OR VEHICLE TRAFFIC IT WILL QUICKLY ERODE.



Las Vegas Valley Land Sales Fund Improvements at Red Rock

IN 1998, THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT WAS PASSED.

This innovative act created a disposal boundary in the Las Vegas Valley that enabled the Bureau of Land Management to dispose of public lands. Funds generated from these sales are used to enhance the quality of life in Southern Nevada for residents and visitors by improving parks, trails and natural areas, supporting conservation initiatives, improving federally-managed facilities, creating habitat conservation plans and acquiring environmentally sensitive lands in Nevada in addition to providing funding for state education and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and its visitors has been the beneficiary of these funds on nine projects.

SIX PROJECTS AT RED ROCK HAVE BEEN COMPLETED:

- RED ROCK FIRE STATION
- UPGRADING EXHIBITS AT THE VISITOR CENTER
- RED SPRING RESTORATION
- FENCING ALONG STATE ROUTE 159 TO KEEP WILD HORSES AND BURROS OFF THE ROADWAY
- ADJUSTING THE COTTONWOOD VALLEY TRAILS NETWORK
- CREATING A NEW VISITOR CENTER AT RED ROCK

PROJECTS UNDERWAY INCLUDE:

- EXPANDING AND PROVIDING UTILITIES TO THE RED ROCK CAMPGROUND
- CREATING AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
- UPGRADING THE SCENIC DRIVE AND PAVING A DIRT ROAD

Rock Climbing at Red Rock

WITH MORE THAN 2,000 CLIMBING ROUTES, RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE CLIMBING DESTINATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

There are two wilderness areas in the conservation area: Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and La Madre Mountain Wilderness. New, bolted, fixed anchors and/or protection bolts cannot be installed in either wilderness area. All of the major canyons in Red Rock Canyon are in the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and all of the climbing routes located on White Rock Mountain are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness.

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY

The sandstone becomes very brittle when it rains and should not be climbed for at least 24 hours. By allowing the sandstone to dry out, hand and footholds will not be broken and gear will be less likely to pull out during a fall. If it rains during your visit to Red Rock Canyon and the sandstone is unclimbable, consider the limestone sport crags that are found in Red Rock and other climbing sites around Las Vegas.

TO OBTAIN A PERMIT, CALL 702-515-5050. You may call up to seven days in advance or as late as the day of your climb. If your message is not clear, you will not receive a permit and you may receive a citation. Same-day permits are not issued after 4:30 p.m. For your safety and to receive a permit, the following information must be included in your message:

- NAME AND ADDRESS
- TYPE OF PERMIT, LE OR ON, AND CLIMBING DATE(S)
- VEHICLE PLATE NUMBER AND STATE
- VEHICLE DESCRIPTION
- CLIMBING DESTINATION AND WHERE YOU WILL PARK
- EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

Additional information on limestone climbing and the classic crags of Red Rock is available at the visitor center.

CLIMBING PERMITS

Late Exit permits (LE) provide an additional two hours of climbing time after the normal closure of the scenic drive. These permits are for multi-pitch routes and are only available for the following areas: Angel Food Wall, Ice Box Canyon, Juniper Canyon, Pine Creek Canyon and Oak Creek Canyon. Overnight permits (ON) are only available for routes on the following walls: Mt. Wilson (1-2 nights), Levitation Wall (1 night), Rainbow Wall (1-2 nights), Buffalo Wall (1-3 nights), Hidden Wall (1-3 nights) and Bridge Mountain (1 night). Camping is not permitted at the base of any route.

Trip Highlight - Icebox Canyon

From Ice Box Canyon's trailhead, almost the entire escarpment can be seen (the mountains that make up Red Rock's western edge), with Bridge Mountain and Mt. Wilson

dominating the view. The trail lures hikers in, gently crossing one desert wash and then slowly climbing the banks of another, offering tantalizing views of the cool greenery below.

As the hike continues along the wash's north bank, the canyon walls start to close in and a keen eye can often find climbers scaling massive cliffs that draw ever closer. Once the trail drops in to Ice Box Canyon itself, literally through a tunnel of trees, the scenery completely changes!

Huge boulders fill a gravely wash and tall pines abound. In the summer, Ice Box Canyon stays shaded for most of the day, providing hikers cool relief from the desert sun. After

a rain, the wash is dotted with ponds and small waterfalls, complete with frogs swimming and singing their welcome.

If you make it to the back of the canyon, that's where the real reward lies: a year-round pool of water, poured over from the cliffs above by occasional rains and melting snow. Lie back on the rocks and enjoy the views from here - you've earned it.

Photo: Ice Box Canyon by Gary Reese





Most of these public lands are located in 12 western states. The agency manages a wide variety of resources on these lands including energy and minerals; timber; wild horse and burro populations; fish and wildlife habitat; wilderness areas; and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites.

Vast and varied, these lands offer outdoor enthusiasts unparalleled recreational opportunities and for others, these special places are a sanctuary for rest and solitude. As managers and stewards, the mission of the Bureau of Land Management is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of these public lands for the

Bureau of Land Management

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM), AN AGENCY WITHIN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ADMINISTERS APPROXIMATELY ONE-EIGHTH OF THE LAND IN THE UNITED STATES.

use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is a part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System: a diverse program that incorporates National Scenic and Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, and National Monuments and Conservation Areas, to name a few. The mission of the Conservation System is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for present and future generations of Americans. This 27 million acre Conservation System is said to be the most innovative

U.S. land-management program in the last 50 years, joining together the crown jewels of the BLM's cultural, natural and scientific assets.

FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AREAS AND A COMPLETE LIST OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BLM MANAGED PUBLIC LAND, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.BLM.GOV. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RED ROCK CANYON, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.NV.BLM.GOV/REDROCKCANYON.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon

THE MISSION OF FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON IS THE PROTECTION AND ENRICHMENT OF RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA AND THE PUBLIC LANDS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA.

Friends of Red Rock Canyon, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, have been contributing their volunteer talents and financial support to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation since 1984.

Our volunteers donate their time and talents in critically needed areas such as graffiti removal, trails construction and maintenance, documenting and protecting historical and cultural sites, native plant propagation, visitor services/education and community volunteer events. In 2009, the efforts of the *Friends* members added the equivalent of 15 staff members to

the workforce at Red Rock Canyon.

The majority of our members do not volunteer their time but sustain the resource and the organization through their membership dues. Our members, residing in 25 states and four countries, volunteered over 26,000 hours and provided over \$120,000 in 2009 in support of the programs and services offered at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Your support, either through your time or donations, is vital in preserving Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO JOIN OR LEARN MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON.

http://www.friendsofredrockcanyon.org



Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association

THE MISSION OF RED ROCK CANYON INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION (THE INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION) IS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) BY PROVIDING MATERIALS AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY, CULTURAL HISTORY, AND SCIENCES OF RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

The Interpretive Association was founded in 1988, at the request of the BLM, to provide fund-raising capabilities in the support of educational outreach programs. The organization began with two employees operating a tiny retail space at the visitor center. Today, the Interpretive Association has more than 50 employees engaged in a wide range of BLM support activities.

Leading interpretive hikes and programs, managing the scenic drive wayside sign project, operating the Red Rock Canyon Gift and Book Store, administering the fee collection program and offering the highly successful "Desert Fossils" interpretive program for local seniors are some of the services provided by the Interpretive Association.

The Interpretive Association continues to increase its commitment to the BLM by facilitating special projects such as Red Springs restoration and creating new exhibits for the visitor center. The Interpretive Association also coordinates the award winning Mojave Max desert tortoise education program.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RED ROCK CANYON
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.REDROCKCANYONLV.ORG.

The Interpretive Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.





Red Rock Fees Changing May 1, 2010

IN ORDER TO BETTER MEET PUBLIC ENJOYMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE, ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PRESERVE RED ROCK RESOURCES, THE BUREAU LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) WILL BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT THE RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA BUSINESS PLAN AND FEE INCREASE BEGINNING MAY 1, 2010.

This standard amenity fee hasn't been raised for more than 10 years while BLM has added numerous amenities, activities and services to improve visitor experiences.

THE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM THE FEE INCREASE WILL BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- Public enjoyment and visitor experience projects including 13-Mile Scenic Drive and parking lots annual and deferred maintenance, long-term building deferred maintenance fund for new and original visitor centers and Mojave Discovery Center, road signs and informational kiosks, treatment of dirt roads, law enforcement patrols and expanded visitor service hours.
- Enhance recreational opportunities projects including rehabilitating present high-use recreation areas, adding recreational vehicle dumping station at the campground, rehabilitating Oliver Ranch area to remove public safety hazards and enable public use, planning and developing Ash Springs area and completing a comprehensive trail plan.

Red Rock resource protection projects include graffiti removal program, restore plant productivity on disturbed areas, eradicate non-native species with an emphasis on tamarisk removal, create and implement a comprehensive cultural Resource Management Plan, protect and rehabilitate lands recently added to the National Conservation Area.

NEW FEES ARE LISTED BELOW

Scenic Drive - Day Pass (car) \$7
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (motorcycle) \$3
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (bicycle) \$3
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (pedestrian) \$3
Scenic Drive - Commercial Tour Bus (per person) \$5
Scenic Drive - Red Rock Annual Pass \$30
Red Spring - Reserved Group Picnic Area w/ Permit \$40
Red Rock Overlook on State Route 159 Free
Campground - Individual Campsite \$15
Campground - Group Campsite \$40

For more information on the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Business Plan, please stop by the visitor center or visit www.nv.blm.gov/redrockcanyon.

Fees and Annual Passes

RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA BEGAN COLLECTING FEES IN 1998. AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS, WHICH REPLACED THE NATIONAL PARKS PASS, GOLDEN AGE, GOLDEN ACCESS AND GOLDEN EAGLE BEGAN SALES IN 2007. IN ADDITION TO PASSES THAT ARE USED ONLY AT RED ROCK CANYON (PLEASE SEE ADJACENT ARTICLE), OTHER PASSES ARE ACCEPTED:

♦ Daily Fee - \$7

Daily pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed campuround

- Red Rock Annual Support Pass \$30
 Yearly pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed campuround.
- ♦ America the Beautiful Pass \$80

The America the Beautiful pass is an interagency pass that will be honored by the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

- ♠ America the Beautiful Senior Pass \$10 one time fee - Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens who are 62 and older to national parks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens with a permanent disability to national U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management sites. Pass provides 50 percent discount on campground fees.

Petroglyphs and Pictographs

AS YOU HIKE THE TRAILS AND EXPLORE RED ROCK CANYON, YOU MAY SEE IMAGES CARVED OR PAINTED ON THE CANYON WALLS OR ON BOULDERS ALONG THE ESCARPMENT. THESE IMAGES ARE CALLED PETROGLYPHS AND PICTOGRAPHS AND SOME OF THEM MAY BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TYPES, AS DESCRIBED BY ARCHEOLOGISTS, IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE CREATED.

Petroglyphs were pecked (scraped and ground) onto the surface of the rock. Usually the dark layer that covers the rock, called the patina or varnish, was broken away to allow the lighter unweathered rock to show through. Artists also used non-varnished rock, soft sedimentary rocks where elements were cut or incised. The reasons for selecting unvarnished rocks are unknown, but these types of petroglyphs are often found in association with rock shelters.

Pictographs, or paintings and drawings on rocks, are less common since these images have a greater likelihood of fading or weathering away. The paint used for pictographs consisted of pigment, a binder and a vehicle. The pigment was the paint's color. In the Southwest, red, white, orange and black are the most common colors, but other colors such as blue, green, purple and pink occasionally occur.

Unfortunately, no detailed studies of paint composition have taken place; indeed, few have been completed elsewhere. Consequently, the materials used for binding also are largely unknown. Without compositional studies the answers to these questions will remain a mystery.

Pictographs and petroglyphs are a fragile part of the past and are easily damaged. Because we know very little about the composition of the paints, preservation is critical. The numbers of pictographs are decreasing each year, spurring the need for their study and conservation. To keep petroglyphs and pictographs pristine, please do not touch the rock art because contact with the oils in skin will damage them. Freely take photographs and make sketches, but rubbings are forbidden. Individuals witnessing vandalism are urged to report their observations to the BLM at the visitor center. Provide a description of the individuals and their license plate number, if possible. All of us share a concern for protecting these cultural resources, and we here in southern Nevada can be proud of having one of the most successful public programs for fostering the preservation of rock art sites.



Hiking Trail Descriptions

2. CALICO HILLS

3. CALICO TANKS

TRAIL NAME **LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY AND GAIN** APPROXIMATE ROUND-TRIP TIME AND DISTANCE

1.5 - 3.5 hours • 2 - 6 mi [3.2-9.6km]

2 hours • 2.5 mi [4 km]

Easy 300 ft [90 m] 1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km] 1. MOENKOPI

This trail starts to the west of the visitor center near a weather station. It offers panoramic views of the Calico Hills, the Spring Mountains and La Madre Mountains.

This trail can be accessed by parking at either Calico I, Calico II or near the entrance station. This trail offers access to sport climbing areas and the best close-up views of the Calico Hills.

Easy - Moderate 400 ft [120 m]

Moderate 450 ft [140 m]

This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It winds through a wash and there may be seasonal water present in a natural tank [tinaja] at the end.

3.5 - 4.5 hours • 5 mi [8 km] Strenuous 2,000 ft [600 m] **TURTLEHEAD PEAK**

This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot and follows the shoulder of the peak to the top [6,324 ft / 1,927 m]. The trail is intermittent and composed of loose rock.

Moderate 400 ft [120m] 1.5 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km] **5. KEYSTONE THRUST**

This trail is accessed from the upper White Rock Spring parking lot. It takes you to the most significant geologic feature of Red Rock Canyon - the Keystone Thrust.

6. WHITE ROCK - WILLOW SPRINGS Easy-Moderate 200 ft [60 m] 2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km]

This trail starts at either the upper White Rock Spring parking lot or at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. Watch for wildlife that rely on these year-round springs.

Moderate 890 ft [270 m] 3.5 hours • 6 mi [9.6 km] 7. WHITE ROCK / LA MADRE SPRING LOOP

This trail can be started at three places: the upper White Rock Spring parking lot, the Lost Creek Trail parking lot or Willow Springs Picnic Area. The north side of White Rock is one of the best areas for viewing bighorn sheep. You can connect to the La Madre Spring Trail to see a year-round spring.

Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m] 55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km] 8. LOST CREEK - CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY

This moderately easy trail is a wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. Depending on the season, there may be a waterfall [January - March.] Also look for a pictograph and an agave roasting pit site. [Combination rocky, uneven terrain and boardwalk trail.]

9. WILLOW SPRINGS LOOP Easy 200 ft [60 m] 1.25 hours • 1.5 [2.4 km]

This trail can be started at either the Willow Springs Picnic Area or Lost Creek Trail parking lot. The trail passes several pictograph and agave roasting pit sites.

Moderate 400 ft [120 m] 2 hours • 3.3 mi [5.2 km] 10. LA MADRE SPRING

This trail starts at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. The first segment involves walking up part of the 4x4 Rocky Gap Road. These springs are a good place to watch for wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep.

11. SMYC Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km]

This trail can be accessed from either the Lost Creek or Ice Box Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.

Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 12. ICE BOX CANYON 2 hours • 2.6 mi [4.1 km]

The parking lot for this trail is at mile 8 on the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. This trail crosses open desert then enters the canyon. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling where there may be seasonal waterfalls [January - March].

Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km] 13. **DALE'S**

This trail can be accessed from either the Ice Box Canyon or Pine Creek Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.

14. PINE CREEK CANYON Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km]

This trail takes you across the open desert, past an old homestead site and into the canyon. You may find seasonal waterfalls. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling.

Easy 200 ft [60 m] 15. FIRE ECOLOGY 55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km]

This trail branches off the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It is a short, figure eight trail that goes through a stand of Ponderosa Pine where a controlled burn took place.

Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m] 1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km] **16. OAK CREEK CANYON**

To access this trailhead, take the Oak Creek turnoff from the 13-Mile Scenic Drive onto a dirt road. The trail then heads through open desert to the mouth of the canyon. Unimproved trails lead deeper into the canyon. Oak Creek is also accessible from State Route 159

Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 1.5 hours • 2.4 mi [3.8 km] 17. ARNIGHT

This trail can be started at the Oak Creek Canyon parking lot or by hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It connects the Oak Creek parking lot with the end loop of the Pine Creek Canyon Trail.

Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2.5 hours • 3.5 mi [5.6 km]

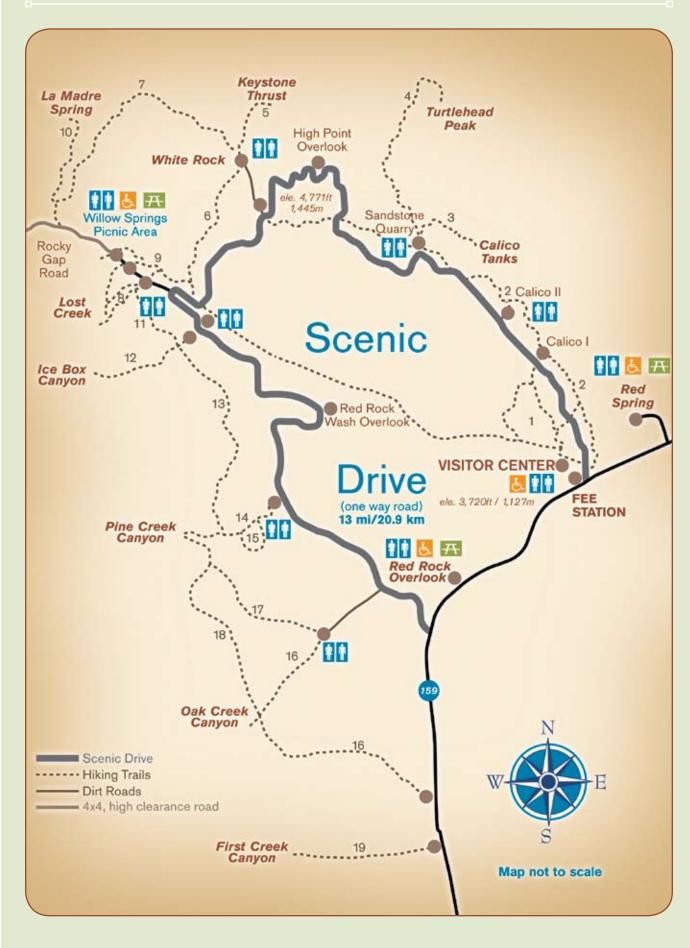
The shortest and easiest way to access this trail is by taking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail. This trail links the upper section of the Arnight Trail with the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, following the base of the escarpment.

2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km] Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 19. FIRST CREEK CANYON

This trailhead is on State Route 159 [W. Charleston Blvd.] 2.6 miles [4.1 km] southwest of the exit to the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. The trail leads to the mouth of the canyon. Seasonal streams and waterfalls can be found deep in the canyon on unimproved trails [January - March.]

Page [8] Red Rock Canyon **Contact Information** Emergency or Fire 293-8932 or 911 [702] 515-5000 Red Rock Visitor Centel [702] 515-5350 limbing Permits [**702**] **515-5050** Gift & Book Store [702] 515-5361 Friends of Red Rock Canyon [702] 515-5360 **Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association Organized Hikes** [702] 515-5367 This publication was made available through a partnership with Bureau of Land Management, Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association. BLM/NV/EA/GI-10/01+1793 Photo: White-lined sphinx moth (Hyles lineata) by Willie Hew

Hiking Map



Restrooms







Hike Ratings

Ratings are based on the general ability of a person who hikes frequently. Your ability may differ from the ratings standard used at Red Rock Canyon. Your ability may also be affected by weather, the condition and steepness of the trail, having enough water and physical condition on a given day, among other things.







Strenuous:

Generally, lots of uphill sections (and later downhill); possibly more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain; double digit mileage and/or difficult terrain and rock scrambling.

Moderate:

Uphill sections include up to 1,000 feet of elevation gain; single digit mileage; uneven terrain and some rock scrambling.

Easy:

Like a walk in the city, but on uneven terrain. (Not guaranteed to seem easy if you are not used to trail hiking.)

Combinations:

Listed as easy-moderate, moderate-strenuous and so on.